

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8 have been allowed. Claim 7 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

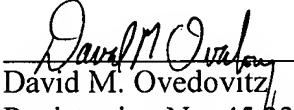
Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chamberlain (US 4,140,198) or Alderman (US 4,179,016).

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 5 has been amended so as to include the limitation of allowable claim 7, and claims 2 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, all of the pending claims are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Izumi TAKAGI

By: 

David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicant

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
May 15, 2006